Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 /036 W

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O R 031752Z MAY 78 ZFF 4
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 0984
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
FAA BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EAIR, FR

SUBJ: CIVAIR: PANAM CHANGE OF GAUGE

REF: MYERSON/ATWOOD TELECON

1. PANAM REP (COMMEAU) ADVISED CIVIL AIR ATTACHE ABOUT 5:30 P.M. PARIS TIME THAT AIRCRAFT HAD LANDED, WAS PARKED IN REMOTE POSITION AT ORLY, AND SURROUNDED BY POLICE UNDER LEADERSHIP OF THIEBLEMONT (DEPUTY TO ESPEROU). THIEBLEMONT REPORTEDLY TOLD CAPTAIN AT DOORWAY THAT, ON BEHALF OF THE GOF, HE WAS BEING INSTRUCTED NOT TO DISEMBARK PASSENGERS, BUT TO RETURN TO LONDON. CAPTAIN, HOWEVER, REFUSED TO START ENGINES AND INSISTED ON KEEPING PLANE WHERE IT WAS. THIEBLEMONT HAD WITH HIM LETTER IN ENGLISH TO PASSENGERS ATTRIBUTING DIFFICULTY TO USG. CAPTAIN, HOWEVER, REFUSED TO PERMIT DISTRIBUTION OF LETTER AND PANAM HAS BEEN DENIED COPY AS A RESULT.

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2. COMMEAU ALSO TOLD US THERE WERE ELEVEN PASSENGERS ABOARD, ONE OF WHOM WAS CORNING (A PANAM EXECUTIVE BASED IN LONDON). PASSENGERS AT LONDON HAD BEEN ADVISED OF PROBLEM AND OFFERED OTHER ACCOMMODATION. FOUR ACCEPTED PANAM OFFER, BUT TEN CHOSE TO STAY WITH COMPANY. EN ROUTE TO PARIS, FRENCH ATC SENT MESSAGE REMINDING CAPTAIN HE COULD NOT BRING PASSENGERS TO

FRANCE AND THEY WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO DISEMBARK.

- 3. AT 6:30 P.M., COMMEAU'S SECRETARY CALLED US TO ADVISE HE HAD JUST RECEIVED TELEPHONIC INSTRUCTIONS FROM NEW YORK TO ORDER THE PLANE'S DEPARTURE. CAPTAIN HAD BEEN ALERTED AND TOLD TO PREPARE FLIGHT PLAN, BUT DEPARTURE WOULD NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL INSTRUCTIONS CONFIRMED BY TELEX WHICH WAS EXPECTED MOMENTARILY. WE CONFIRMED TO PANAM PER REF TELECON THAT PANAM HQS. AND DEPARTMENT OFFICE CONCERNED AGREED THAT THE FLIGHT SHOULD LEAVE.
- 4. SUBSEQUENT TO THE PREPARATION OF THIS TELEGRAM PANAM TOLD US AT 19:30 HOURS THEY HAD WRITTEN CONFIRMATION, WERE TRYING TO GET FOOD FOR PASSENGERS, AND WILL TAKE OFF.
 HARTMAN

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Message Attributes

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